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Contact: Rachel Wall

rwall@hsr.ca.gov

CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ISSUES STATEMENT

Sacramento - California High-Speed Rail Authority Deputy Executive Director Jeff Barker issued the following statement in response to the resolution approved by the City Council of Orange:

"The California High-Speed Rail Authority is working with hundreds of communities throughout the state - we value their feedback and want to work together to develop the best high-speed train project possible. So it is disappointing that the elected officials in the city of Orange have declined the opportunity to help shape this historic project and have declined to represent residents of their city - especially at this early stage in our development when input and constructive feedback is so vital. In opposing the high-speed rail project, the city council is opposing the creation of tens of thousands of jobs, opposing improved air quality, and opposing a needed new transportation option that will ease congestion on our freeways and in our airways. The Authority will continue to reach out to the residents of Orange and listen to their ideas about the high-speed rail project because we know we cannot develop the best train system possible without their feedback."